



LEGENDA

THEMATIC AREAS

- 1° Theme area 1° hill 121, Pietrarossa hill, learning area
- 2° Theme area 2° saddle of hill 85 – “trincerone”
- 3° Theme area 3° Joffre trench – Virgin cave

Monumental area of hill 85, E. Toti hill

STARTING POINT OF ITINERARY:

- 1 Mount Debeli itinerary
- 2 Zochet, Gradiscata, Forcate
- 3 Rock itinerary
- 4 Hill 85 and 121
- 5 Pietrarossa lake, hill 77 and Sablici

ACESSES:

- A Underpass of via del Carso
- B Underpass of Salita Mocenigo
- C Underpass of Salita alla Rocca
- D Access square to the Pietrarossa Visitor Centre

TRAILS:

- 81 Main visit trails
- Other visit trails

INFORMATION:

- i Informative plates
- P Parking places
- Italian trench line before August 12, 1916
- Austro-Hungarian trench line before August 12, 1916



GREAT WAR OPEN MUSEUM

NOTES FOR HIKERS

Best time of the year to hike on the Carsic highland
Hiking trips on the former battlefields should be taken during fall season or even in the winter time because the poor vegetation allows an easier viability of the area and facilitates the detecting of artifacts and remains, often placed out of marked trails.

Suggested clothing
Mountain hiking clothes are advisable and it is important to pay particular attention to the shoes. They must be solid and capable of protecting the ankles. Although the Carsic highland is not dangerous, it is an uneven, rocky soil, therefore it is important to walk carefully, especially while visiting historical military remains.

Maps (sold in the best bookshops)
Carso triestino goriziano e sloveno n.02, Transalpina E., (1:25.000)

Equipment
A small backpack to keep the windbreaker and some warm extra clothes is enough. Do not forget your camera.

CAI (Italian Alpine Club) trailmarks

81 (Selz – Lisert)
Duration of the trip: 1.30 hour. Restore areas in Selz and in the Visitor Centre of Pietrarossa Lake.
Starting from state road 305 towards Selz, follow the direction leading to the lakes (Laghi) and meeting first the Northern side of Pietrarossa lake, then the Eastern sides of hill 121, in order to reach the railway bridge of Lisert (Arches).

82 (Monfalcone – Doberdò Lake)
Duration of the trip: 1.30 hour. Restore areas in Monfalcone, Doberdò Lake and Gradina Visitor Centre (Doberdò del Lago)
From Monfalcone climb the steep way up to the Rock until crossing trail 84, turn left to go down to trail 81, then go up again to the saddle between Mount Cosich and Debeli to finally descent to Doberdò lake.

83 (Monfalcone – Lisert)
Duration of the trip: 1 hour. Restore ares in Monfalcone.
From Monfalcone climb up Salita Mocenigo and follow the dirt road below the sides of hill 85 (Toti hill) to the crossroad of Sablici, from where we descent to the railway bridge of Lisert (Arches).

84 (Selz – Monfalcone)
Duration of the trip: 2.00 hours. Restore areas in Selz and in Monfalcone.
Starting from state road 305 towards Selz, reach the trail following the remains of the trenches, where there are no more households. Reach the Rock and then, go back to Monfalcone while meeting trails 99, 111, 121 and finally the underpass of via del Carso.

Warning
As a general rule you should never hike on your own. Moreover it is recommended not to explore the several caves if not helped by speleologists or people who know the are very well and are equipped with a light. In the summer time or when it is hot, try to avoid areas where the sun shines directly on: it is a viper's favourite place. Last but not least, in case you found Great War artillery shells, avoid touching them and, in case they were found in a place with many people around, call the police.

To make a complete visit to the three theme areas it takes about 3 to 3.5 hours. We recommend carefulness during your visit, the hiking trip is at your own risk.

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Photos: Consorzio culturale del monfalconese, Marco Mantini, Silvo Stok



How to reach the open museum

Main entrance:

Via del Carso, coming from Trieste:

Start from via Colombo, follow via Romana until Tommaseo square (parking). Walk up via del Carso following the indications to the park

Via del Carso coming from the freeway A4 (Venice-Trieste):

Coming from either direction, take the Monfalcone est exit and reach via Colombo, follow via Romana until Tommaseo square (parking). Walk up via del Carso following the indications to the park

Salita Mocenigo coming from downtown:

From Piazza della Repubblica (main square) go down Corso del Popolo and reach Salita Mocenigo on the left following the indications to the park

Informative material is available at:

Monfalcone Tourist office

via Ceriani, 10 - 34074 Monfalcone (GO)

opening hours

Monday-Friday 9.30 – 13.00 / 15.00 – 19.00

Saturday 16.00 – 19.00

Phone 0481 494229

www.comune.monfalcone.go.it

iat@comune.monfalcone.go.it

Redipuglia Tourist office

guided hikes into the Great War sites

Via III Armata 54 - 34070 Fogliano di Redipuglia (GO)

opening hours

Monday-Friday 9.30 - 12.30 / 15.30 - 18.30

Saturday 9.30 - 12.30

Phone 0481 489139

www.prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it

info@prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it

Sistiana Tourist office

Sistiana 56/B – 34011 Sistiana (Trieste)

Phone: +39 040 299166

www.marecarso.it

iatsistiana@marecarso.it

Gruppo Speleologico Monfalconese “Amici del Fante”

guided tours of the Virgin Cave and the Rocca Museum

Via Valentinis 134 - 34074 Monfalcone (GO)

Tel. +39 0481 40014

www.museomonfalcone.it

info@museomonfalcone.it

FVG Airport Tourist office

Via Aquileia, 46 - 34077 Ronchi dei Legionari (GO)

Phone +39 0481 476079

info.aeroporto.fvg@turismo.fvg.it

Udine Tourist office

Piazza I° Maggio, 7 - 33100 Udine

Phone +39 0432 295972

info.udine@turismo.fvg.it

Other sites of interest:

World War I in Friuli Venezia Giulia

www.turismofvg.it/First-World-War

Walks of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation

www.potimiruvposocju.si/_en/

THEMATIC AREAS

Thematic area 1: Hill 121

Of all Monfalcone heights, hill 121 is the highest, towering above the town and on the surrounding territory, stretching towards the Slovenian Carso and the sea. It used to be an Austrian stronghold and, together with hill 85, proved to be the hardest obstacle for the Italian troops for over one year (1915-1916). The complicated trench system, enriched with machinegun pits and caves, was built by the Italians in different phases, starting on the pre-existing Austrian lines. From August 1916 it functioned as the Italian front line, facing the Austrian's hill 77 (Sablici) and the lines of Pietrarossa lake. The several war graffiti left by the soldiers in this area are extremely interesting.



Thematic area 2: saddle Hill 85

Its main feature is the trench dug deeply into the Carso rocks and reinforced by concrete structures built by the Italians in the August of 1916 on previous Austrian digging. It can be reached by hill 85 (“Enrico Toti hill”), where the monumental area, enriched by several decorative and memorial stones, honors not only the memory of the above mentioned infantryman, but many other fallen soldiers and divisions that fought there during the Great War.



Thematic area 3: “Virgin” cave

After the initial operations carried out in the summer of 1915, this network became a back line trenched system. Its main purpose was to allow the access to the higher line and to hill 98. The position of the trench was also used against possible enemy incursions, in case the lines were taken by the Austrians, especially the line between the “Tamburo” and hill 104, that went all the way down to hill 93 and to the cave.

The craftwork was reinforced several times and nowadays it is still well kept. Its main feature is that it is linked to two natural caves, that were eventually turned to military use. The “Virgin Cave” especially represents a typical example of a natural cavity exploited for military use during the Great War. This is a very common feature on the Carso. The “Virgin Cave” is now accessible to tourists thanks to the work of the “Amici del Fante” Monfalcone Speleological Group. Inside the cave the space was organised into terraces linked by stairs and two more openings were dug in correspondence of the trench.



“T.Col. Cuzzi” Trench

This tract of the trench, restored by the Monfalcone A.N.A. (National Alpine Association), is a part of the main Italian line that followed the town's heights towards east and to hill 104 of the “Tamburo”. This was also one of the strongholds in the Italian defensive system: there still is a small canyon on the north side that allowed an easy access to the advanced lines and another canyon, on the south side (Maple canyon), that acted as a sheltered corridor to allow a direct passage from the railway to the lines. This canyon also hosted an authentic “war village”. The trench is also linked to the defensive back line that cuts through hill 98 and runs down to the railway station: the Joffre Trench.



HISTORICAL CONTEST

At the beginning of the First World War Monfalcone was a town of the so called *Austrian Littoral* in industrial development through the establishment of chemical plants, shipyards and with the Vienna-Trieste railway line. For its membership of Austro-Hungarian Empire the city was involved in the European war since the summer 1914 with the call to arms of the male population and sending on the eastern front. With the Italian declaration of war (24 May 1915) the military operations directly interested Monfalcone since June 9, when the first Italian troops entered the town in order to occupy the positions on the highlands that had been abandoned by Austro-Hungarian soldiers looking for better defenses.

Then Monfalcone was transformed into a backline, welcoming shelters, field hospitals, headquarters and many cemeteries, while a network of trenches started to carve deeply in the highland.

The beginning operations allowed the Italian troops to settle on the hills in the nearby the town. These hills have been hardly contended, conquered and lost for a whole year, forcing the thousands of soldiers involved to face a great sacrifice.

The fall of Gorizia (August 8/9th 1916) allowed the reshaping of the Italian line. The last enemy outpost of q, 77 by Sablici could be overcome only in May 1917, during the so called “tenth Isonzo battle”.

In late autumn 1917 the Austro-Hungarian breakthrough in Plezzo and Tolmino forced the Italians to withdraw from the Carso. On October 27th 1917 all military operations near Monfalcone were ended.

